GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1610
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2016
Forest Fires
Adityanath Shri Yogi;Azad Shri Kirti (JHA);Chandel Kunwar Pushpendra Singh;Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan;Solanki Dr. Kirit Premjibhai

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of forest fires have been reported from various parts of the country and if so, the details thereof, State/ UT-wise;
(b) the details of human lives lost/public properties and forest wealth damaged due to the said forest fires during each of the last three years and the current year; State-wise;
(c) whether the Government proposes to set up any Committee to ascertain the reasons for such forest fires in various parts of the country including the Himalayan region and if so, the details and outcome thereof;
(d) whether the Government has provided financial assistance to the States to prevent and check the forest fires and if so, the details thereof during the said period, State-wise; and
(e) the details of the action plan/steps being taken by the Government to prevent the occurrence and spread of forest fires in future including making fire line in forests?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) &(b) As per the report received from Forest Survey of India, Dehradun the details of forest fires that have been reported in the country during the last three years and the current year is given in Annexure-I. The details of human lives lost/public properties and forest wealth damaged due to the forest fires are not maintained in the Ministry.

(c) The Ministry of Home Affairs vide order dated April 30, 2016 had setup a Central Team of Experts to visit the forest fire affected areas in Uttarakhand and also to take stock of the situation and suggest appropriate measures to combat forest fires. The report of the Central Team of Experts suggests that most of the forest fires are caused due to human neglect. The key recommendations of the committee include wide application of forest management practices such as fire lines, control burning etc, use of operational fire detection system, use of improved technology and tools to combat forest fires, Strengthen mobility and communication, community outreach activities, training and capacity building, use of space technology for detection as well as management of forest fires.

(d) & (e) The Government of India provides funds to State and Union Territory (UT) Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Intensification of Forest Management Scheme' (IFMS) to supplement their efforts. Forest Fire Control and Management is one of the seven components of the scheme and about one-third of the funds are spent under this component. Various measures taken by State/UT Governments for protection of forests from fires include creation and maintenance of fire lines in forest areas, engaging fire watchers, establishing forest camps, regular patrolling by forest personnel etc. The support of Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) is also taken in this regard. The funds released to the States and Union Territories under Centrally Sponsored Intensification of Forest Management Scheme is given in Annexure-II.

***